



**United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan**

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PRESS RELEASE

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**UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER
PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

ERIC HIGGINS, 31, a Customs and Border Protection Officer stationed at the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron, Michigan, pleaded guilty today in federal court in Detroit on charges of possession of child pornography, United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced today.

McQuade was joined in the announcement by John Tiano, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG).

Higgins admitted possessing images of child pornography that he received through the Internet. Possession of child pornography is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment.

United States Attorney McQuade said, "No one is above the law, and we want to make sure that those who are entrusted with enforcing the law are complying with the law."

Special Agent in Charge Tiano said, "I am pleased by this guilty plea today. Let it stand as a reminder that the OIG will aggressively pursue those Department of Homeland Security employees who violate the public's trust by committing these types of serious crimes. However, this conviction is not indicative of the vast majority of honest and hard working Customs and Border Protection Officers that tirelessly protect our nation."

The case was investigated by Special Agents of DHS OIG. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Cares.